

The Baptist Record

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Bangladesh television tells missionary story

DHAKA, Bangladesh (BP)—The story behind Southern Baptists' resolve to stay in Bangladesh during its bloody war for independence was televised nationwide in April by the Muslim government.

Speaking in Bengali, the people's native tongue, Southern Baptist missionary Jim McKinley said on a popular interview show that during the 1971 uprising, in which Bangladesh was born from East Pakistan, he stayed with the people because of "a pull from within."

Azad Chowdhury, a television personality with his own cultural show, was the host for the 10-minute interview, broadcast during prime time over two government-run television

stations. Most people who don't have personal access to a television set can watch at government sponsored viewing areas in villages.

Chowdhury met McKinley at a mutual Christian friend's home in March, and asked him to appear on his show. Chowdhury had read McKinley's book, "Death to Life—Bangladesh," about the McKinley family's experience during the revolution.

During the interview Chowdhury emphasized that the people of Bangladesh would benefit from the sale of McKinley's book. "He asked, 'I understand the money will come back here,'" said McKinley. "I was able to respond, 'Yes, All of it.'"

The proceeds will build an auditorium and training center for Baptist lay leaders in Bangladesh.

McKinley's book was published in 1978 by Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky. More than 40,000 copies have been sold in the States, and many others have been distributed in Bangladesh to people including high government officials. Chowdhury requested over the air that the book be translated into Bengali.

The McKinley family of Kentucky, and the Tom Thurman family of Mississippi, also Southern Baptist missionaries, were part of a small group of Americans who stayed in the country during the war.

The missionaries attempted to hold Baptist work together during the bloodshed. As the war drew to a close, reinforcements arrived to minister to many of the 10 million refugees who returned. "With all of this helping and caring, 'long about the mid-1970s they (Bangladeshi refugees) started coming in large numbers looking for Christian teaching,'" Thurman said.

"The main thing that sticks out in my mind was we were able to share the love of Christ," he added. "The things we were able to do were so minute, but we were there during their dark hour. We were a presence. And God honored that."

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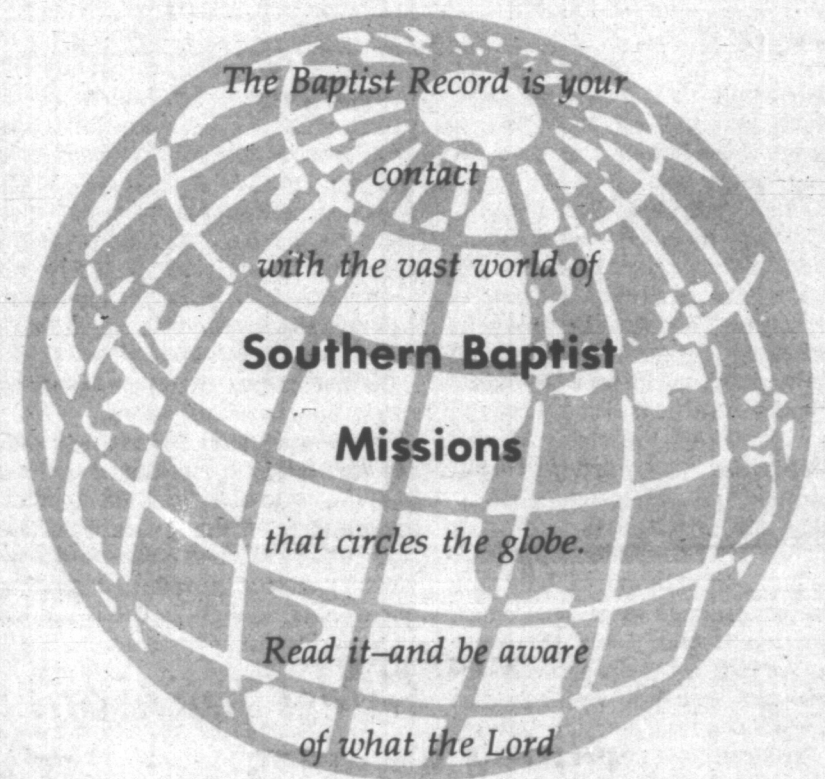
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Baptist Record

Day

June 3, 1984



is doing

among his people

all over the world.

Twins heed call



Boyd and Floyd Smith

FORT WORTH, Texas—"I knew for a long time that God was calling me to the ministry," Boyd Smith recalled, "but I kept trying to put it off on Floyd. I said, 'Lord, take Floyd instead.'"

"Floyd was doing the same thing, saying, 'Lord, don't take me; take Boyd.'"

But it's not too surprising that Boyd and Floyd—identical twins from Lambert, Miss.—have come to Southwestern Seminary here.

After all, they made professions of a faith at the age of 14 during the same youth retreat.

During another retreat two years later, Floyd realized that "I hadn't yielded my life completely over to Christ." Boyd came to the same conclusion. And they learned, in Floyd's words, "what a daily walk with the Lord is" through daily prayer and Bible study. They began having devotions at the same time each day and in the same room.

By Art Toalston

In 1979, as students at Delta State University in Mississippi, they committed themselves to full-time Christian service during a missions conference in Nashville.

Each time, neither knew of the other's decision until later.

Boyd and Floyd are the youngest of six children whose mother led the family after her husband died when the twins were 4 years old.

"We were the best of friends," Floyd said. "We were always together."

"We depended on each other," Boyd added. "If we didn't have anyone else to go to for help, we knew we could go to each other."

Boyd and Floyd jumped at the chance to attend their initial retreat years ago. "I went mostly because my friends went," Floyd said. "I didn't want to be left out."

But it wasn't until they fully committed their lives to Christ during the second retreat that "Mother saw the

difference," Boyd said. "She saw that we weren't the same."

During the 1979 missions conference, Boyd recounted, "I was miserable" until his ministry decision. Then, "I found peace in my heart."

Although Floyd had long sensed God's call, "I really didn't take it seriously. I didn't think God could use me."

"I always thought God took 6-foot-4 guys, the ministerial type," Floyd said.

But the conference helped him to realize that "God uses anybody who will let him. That's what I needed to hear."

"God doesn't want us to be something we're not," Floyd said. "He will use us just the way we are."

(Art Toalston is co-news director at Southwestern Seminary. He is former religion editor of the Jackson Daily News.)

SINCE 1877...
MISSISSIPPI'S LONG-PLAYING RECORD

The convention president

By J. B. Fowler

J. B. Fowler is editor of the Baptist New Mexican and the former pastor of First Church, McComb.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3
Thursday, May 31, 1984

Issues at 1984 SBC

Presidency, key reports top Kansas City agenda

By Dan Martin

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Selection of a new president tops the list of issues facing messengers at the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City, Mo., June 12-14.

While the choice of a person to succeed James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, as president of the 14.1 million member denomination tops the agenda, it probably is not the most volatile issue facing the estimated 18,500 messengers.

An item expected to draw extended—and possibly heated—discussion is the relationship of the SBC to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a nine-denomination coalition which has represented the SBC in Washington since the 1940s.

Two other issues expected are the role of the SBC in Canada, including whether the national convention will become international in scope, and an equally explosive issue: the role of women in the church, including ordination to the ministry and to the diaconate.

Resolutions generally draw discussion, and there will be a variety of statements, including positions on the role of the United States in Central America, abortion, homosexuality, national defense and the prayer amendment issue, including the equal access and religious freedom dimensions of the question.

Also, messengers will consider the report of the denomination's Committee on Boards, already a topic of controversy because of the nomination of inerrancy movement leader Paul Pressler of Houston to a term on the SBC Executive Committee.

PRESIDENCY—Six men have been mentioned as potential presidential candidates. A new president is necessary because Draper, first elected in 1982 and reelected in 1983, has served the two one-year terms allowed by the SBC Constitution.

Three men are the most likely candidates, according to convention watchers. They are John Sullivan, current first vice-president of the SBC and pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La.; Grady C. Cothen, recently retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tenn., and Charles Stanley, current president of the SBC Pastors' Conference and pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

Sullivan, 47, is the only man in recent history to serve back-to-back terms as first vice-president. He has publicly announced he will be nominated and has been endorsed by at least one state Baptist newspaper.

Cothen, 63, retired in February citing health reasons. After several months of rest, he reportedly appears ready to resume an active role in denominational life. He says "many persons" have talked to him about being nominated, and said he has "never refused the denomination or the churches any service I could render."

Stanley, 46, in late May told Baptist Press he is "seriously considering" allowing his name to be presented at the convention. He said he has been "prayerfully asking the Lord to give me direction. If I can be a help, I want to be, but at this point I just want to wait and see." A decision probably will not be made until the convention, he added.

Three other persons are potential nominees: Edwin Young, past president of the Pastors' Conference and pastor of Second Baptist Church in Houston; Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church; and Adrian Rogers, who was a one term SBC president 1979-80) and is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.

Jackson, who said he probably won't even attend the Kansas City meeting, told the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger "someone is going to be elected before we get there," and added "a man can't be elected independently. He'd have to line up with one of the factions and I won't do it. So my candidacy is out of the question."

Stanley is widely regarded as the favorite of the inerrancy movement, while Cothen is seen as the candidate of the moderates. Sullivan is not identified with either group, and commented "it will be interesting to see if anyone can be elected anymore who is not strongly identified with a political faction."

BJCPA—Funding for the Public Affairs Committee, a SBC standing committee through which funding passes to the BJCPA, could be challenged during consideration of the SBC budget. Observers say the avenue likely will be to reallocate all or part of the \$450,000 SBC contribution to a "Southern Baptist presence" in the nation's capital.

The BJCPA and its executive director, James M. Dunn, have drawn increasing fire from conservative

Southern Baptists in recent years for his style and for opposition to President Reagan's School Prayer Amendment. The Alabama Baptist Convention, during its annual meeting last fall, passed a resolution asking that funding be halted to the BJCPA.

CANADA—Following a 1983 effort to amend the SBC Constitution to include Canada in the geographical area encompassed by the SBC, a 21-member study committee was named to study the matter. It will report the constitution should not be changed, but that Southern Baptists should renew their efforts to help SBC-type churches in Canada and to evangelize the nation.

The Canadian Southern Baptist Conference, which met in early May, approved the report in a carefully worded statement. Many pastors and church leaders in Canada, however, expressed a desire to affiliate with the SBC. Rumors circulate that the report will be amended and a renewed effort will be made to seat the Canadians as messengers, giving them full-fledged SBC status.

ROLE OF WOMEN—Turmoil has torn segments of the convention over the ordination of women as deacons and ministers. At least two associations disfellowshipped churches with ordained women. One of the churches was First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, of which Gene Garrison, former second vice-president of the Convention, is pastor.

The debate has heated up, with factions taking opposing sides and citing scripture as justification. Early rumors circulated an effort would be made to refuse seating to churches which ordain women, but the battle apparently will be fought through resolutions.

COMMITTEE ON BOARDS—Pressler's nomination is the most controversial, but other names on the report also have drawn criticism. The report includes 215 nominees—103 renominations and 112 new trustees—to serve on the convention's 20 national agencies.

The president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, C. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, has said he will present a substitute nomination for the Pressler slot.

Another protest will be heard by the committee from Richard Eskew, pastor of First Baptist Church of Yadkinville, N.C., who was eligible

for a second full term on the Home Mission Board but was not nominated.

Rumors are circulating challenges will be made to some nominees from Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina. A leader of the inerrancy movement, however, said if the challenges develop, a whole series of substitute nominees—particularly for renominations—may be entered. Some observers fear a state-by-state wrangle.

In recent years, the report of the Committee on Boards has faced limited challenges, but has never been subjected to a protracted person-by-person debate.

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

Clyde Nettles to be treasurer in Uruguay

Clyde Nettles, member of First Church, Brandon, is leaving May 31 for Montevideo, Uruguay, where she expects to remain for at least eight months on volunteer mission.

While Murray Smith, missionary, is in the U.S. on furlough, Mrs. Nettles will be serving as treasurer for the Baptist Mission of Uruguay.

A former employee with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as chief accountant, she is now retired.

Baylor gets land gift worth \$13 million

WACO, Texas (BP)—A Dallas woman has left Baylor University in Waco, Texas, more than \$13 million, even though no one in her immediate family ever attended the Southwest Conference school which is affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Baylor officials said the gift from the estate of Mattie Allen is the largest in Baylor's 139-year history and one of the largest given any college or university in Texas.

After the announcement May 17 the money from a land sale immediately was invested through the Baptist Foundation of Texas to start earning approximately \$4,000 per day in interest.

Shortfall may force cutbacks

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President William G. Tanner told HMB directors a shortfall in Cooperative Program operating budget receipts may force the agency to cut back on programming for 1984.

In opening comments to board members, Tanner noted HMB allocations from the Cooperative Program, the Southern Baptist Convention's unified budget, fell short by more than \$600,000 during the first six months of the 1983-84 fiscal year.

Tanner warned if Cooperative Program gifts continue at the same rate, the board could find itself more than \$1 million under 1984 budget needs.

Tanner explained October-through-March Cooperative Program contributions are more than \$3.5 million under the amount necessary to fund all SBC agencies 100 percent. The HMB is receiving only about 95 percent of the CP funds needed to fully fund all HMB endeavors for 1984. Tanner said HMB administrators will study whether to initiate a contingency budget in June with a five to 10 percent reduction should CP gifts fail to increase.

Tanner expressed optimism, however, that early receipts of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds for 1984 show a 13.2 percent increase over the same period a year ago. Tanner said more than \$3.9 million of the offering has been received so far, about 14 percent of the 1984 goal of \$29 million.

In a separate action, board members overwhelmingly approved a motion "expressing our confidence in and thanks for Richard Eskew's faithful service to the Home Mission Board as director."

Eskew, pastor of First Baptist Church, Yadkinville, N.C., and a board member since 1977, was eligible for another term but was not recommended for reappointment by the 1984 Committee on Boards. Eskew had served an unexpired term and a full term, and another term would give him 11 years on the Home Mission Board, an "excessively long period of time," according to the Committee on Boards report released April 25.

HMB board members added their motion "in no way weakens our hope that the Committee on Boards for our Southern Baptist Convention will rescind their published report of deleting Richard's name for his rightful place on this Board."

Board members appointed six missionaries and four missionary associates, including a church planter couple, approved 16 persons for mission service, and elected three staff members.

Dan Euliss was elected director of the promotion department, effective June 1, and will head the planning, coordination, budgeting, implementing, and evaluation of a general educational, promotional, and marketing service for the board.

(Continued on page 7)

"Right words"

Resolutions group plans for heavy work

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The 1984 Southern Baptist Convention Resolutions Committee is making plans to deal with potential resolutions which will range from the ordinary to the highly controversial and emotional.

For the second year, the 10-member body met in Nashville, Tenn., in late May to be briefed and to organize their efforts to handle another heavy year of work.

In briefing them, SBC President James T. Draper Jr. commented they probably will be expected to handle "some extremely controversial and emotional resolutions," which probably will include statements on the ordination of women, the school prayer issue, homosexuality, abortion, pornography, along with routine statements thanking the host city and committee.

He noted he is pleased the body now holds the May planning meeting, and said recent years have produced record numbers of resolutions.

"It is not fair to lock 10 people in a room and then throw 47 resolutions at them," he said. He added he hopes the resolutions committee "will not be bombarded by 40 or 50 resolutions during the three-day annual SBC in Kansas City, Mo., June 12-14."

Real work later

The president, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, also told them the May meeting is strictly for organization and planning, because their real work will not start until after the convention begins June 12.

Draper outlined the procedure he will follow in the introduction of resolutions; a process he initiated during the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh in an effort to speed up the process.

"The procedure is not as complicated as it sounds," he said.

Draper urged persons who wish to introduce resolutions to present them as early as possible during the Tuesday morning session at a special desk set up adjacent to the platform in the meeting hall. The desk will be manned by representatives of the Resolutions Committee as well as one of the two SBC parliamentarians.

He specifically asked that all proposed resolutions be presented at the desk before 10:30 a.m., so they can be introduced in the morning session, allowing the resolutions committee to begin deliberations immediately following the presidential address.

Also, he said, even if proposed resolutions were sent to the committee prior to its May meeting—and about 15 were—elected messengers must present them at the Tuesday session in order for them to be considered. Resolutions submitted early will not be automatically entered, but must be introduced at the Tuesday session.

The parliamentarian will rule on whether the proposals are resolutions or motions, Draper said, explaining a "resolution expresses an

opinion and a motion calls for action."

After the resolutions are presented at the desk, Draper said, they will be read into the minutes—only the topic of the resolution and the name of the messenger submitting it—by one of the officers of the convention.

Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, also briefed the committee, telling them they have a "tremendously important task" and urging them to "select the right words" for the resolutions they present. "The words you use are as vital as anything you can imagine," he said.

Bennett also told them they must "report out everything" submitted to them, under convention rules. "You do not have to make a recommendation, but you have to report on everything," Bennett said.

He added the resolutions they prepare and present "have an impact which will continue after the convention . . . on both the SBC and other groups as well."

Draper told them their "personal convictions are very important," but urged them to do their work in such a way as to "decide what is best for the convention. I do not mean you must compromise your convictions, but I do mean that through study and discussion you come to conclusions which are best for the convention."

The committee will have another preliminary meeting during which they will discuss substantive issues dealing with proposed resolutions. They will, however, do their main work beginning Tuesday afternoon.

Committee chairman is Bailey E. Stone, pastor of First Baptist Church of Odessa, Texas. The committee includes three members of the Executive Committee, Otis Testerman, pastor of Bookcliff Baptist Church, Grand Junction, Colo.; Darrell Robinson, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and Frank Ingraham, a Nashville attorney.

Others are David Simpson, editor of the *Indiana Baptist*, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana; Ruel May, an oral surgeon from Jackson, Miss., and a member of First Church; Ed Packwood, a retired businessman from Shawnee, Okla.; Carl F. H. Henry, a theologian from Arlington, Va.; George Schroeder, an ophthalmologist from Little Rock, Ark., and Cristobal Dona, a pastor from San Jose, Calif. (Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

In the South American country of Ecuador, the number of baptisms jumped in 1983 to 684 (a fourfold increase) and further strengthened Baptists' efforts there to develop a "One Work" approach to church planting, unifying missionary and national Baptist efforts.



Volunteers at Central Hills

This group of volunteers spent a Saturday doing improvements at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Koscusko. These men are members of Emmanuel Church, Grenada. They are Danny and John Sivley, Brian Poyner,

Michael Jackson, Mike Perry, and Randy Poss. With the group (front, right) is Scott West, son of the camp manager, Dan West.

Sisk of CLC writes Reagan on Nicaraguan policies

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A Christian Life Commission staff member has appealed to President Reagan to "consider the humble plea" of Nicaraguan Baptist leaders for changes in U.S. policy toward that country.

Ronald D. Sisk, who coordinates the Southern Baptist Convention's agency program of peace with justice, wrote President Reagan in response to the Nicaraguan's recent "pastoral letter" to Baptists around the world.

The letter, signed by Baptist Convention of Nicaragua President Gonzalo Mairena, Executive Secretary Tomas Tellez and Secretary Javier Talavera, criticized U.S. support of rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government.

"It is urgent that we make an all-out effort, now while there is still time, to stop the plans for war and destruction designed against us. We need your help to achieve peace," the leaders wrote to fellow Baptists.

Urges response

Sisk, writing "as one American Christian," urged Reagan to respond to the pleas "for negotiations rather than armed intervention" in Nicaragua. Reagan administration officials have acknowledged the use of "covert" CIA support for anti-government rebels in Nicaragua, maintaining that such efforts will pressure the Nicaraguan government to halt arms shipments to rebels in El Salvador.

Although the appeal of the Nicaraguan Baptist leaders "is couched in the language of faith," Sisk noted, that their concerns raised "legiti-

mate questions" about U.S. policy.

"In the midst of many voices of counsel about a complex and sensitive political situation in Nicaragua," he added, "my prayer

is that you will give serious consideration to the opinions of these Christian brothers and sisters who are intimately acquainted with the hopes and fears of the Nicaraguan people."

Important convention

(Continued from page 2)

to Canadian Southern Baptists will report. The committee's report has been discussed earlier in the *Baptist Record*, and it is hoped that the report will be accepted. Essentially, it is to not seat the Canadians as messengers but to search for every means possible to help them evangelize their land.

An effort is expected to eliminate funding for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from the SBC budget. This would be a mistake. Those who are seeking to do this are basing their actions on the fact that the executive director, James Dunn, was once a board member for People for the American Way, an organization in which television producer Norman Lear is active. Also, some have objected to Dunn's flamboyant mannerisms in public speaking. Dunn, however, has declined to continue to serve on the board of People for the American Way. We need the Baptist Joint Committee, and it takes a man of Dunn's courage and ability to serve effectively in such an office. He was well received in Mississippi two years ago when he delivered the final message for the convention. Dunn is a dedicated and able

statesman. He is flamboyant, it is true; but it is a style he has learned to use in carrying out his assignment, and it has stood him in good stead. He has been criticized for opposing President Reagan's prayer in public school amendment proposal, but he received a standing ovation when he spoke to the Mississippi Baptist Convention on church-state matters.

His father-in-law, by-the-way, is Mississippian Edwin McNeeley of Newton, who retired following a long tenure as music professor at Southwestern Seminary.

The third issue might be ordination of women. More than likely, if this is considered, the convention will take the position that it is a local church matter.

Another potential issue at the convention is the report of the committee on boards, particularly the Executive Committee section. Paul Presler, the inerrancy leader from Texas, has been nominated. News sources indicate that the nomination will be challenged.

It should be an interesting convention. It may well be one of the most important ones that has been held in many years, or maybe ever.

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

Gold Medal winner

He didn't win another Gold Medal in the Gum Tree Run in Tupelo May 12, but he came in fourth in his age group (he's 60). And 6.2 miles in 50 minutes and one second is nothing to sneeze at, let me tell you!

James Travis, professor of Bible at Blue Mountain College, has run in all eight of the annual Gum Tree runs, and in 1979 he did win a Gold Medal. In what he calls "paying a daily premium on my health insurance," he runs early morning, at noon while his wife is preparing his lunch, and late afternoon, at least 20 miles a week. Besides that, he runs another 20 miles a week on a stationary bike—while watching TV.

Now that I've met Dr. Travis, I readily understand why Jerry Stevens, Winston County director of missions, suggested that I interview his "beloved professor." A couple of days before the Tupelo festival, W. D. and I drove to Blue Mountain, in search of "the Hardin House," which the Traveses own (it's the oldest house in Blue Mountain, I believe they said, built in 1873.) The white two-story structure was built with three chimneys (containing six fireplaces) and has porches along two sides. Dr. Travis was standing at the top of the front steps, youthful looking despite thinning grey hair, calling out a congenial greeting, his hand extended in welcome. Perceptive blue eyes behind his glasses held more than a hint of laughter, as if he found life much to his liking.

Right away he introduced us to his wife, Lucille, an attractive woman with light brown hair. "We've shared 66 years of married life," he said with a straight face, and added with a chuckle—"33 years each."



Shelves covering a wall of the den held trophies of every shape. "Won in runs, and in playing golf," he said. Then he showed me that Gold Medal. James Travis was born in Carlisle,

Penn., not too far from Hershey ("Maybe that's why I'm so sweet!" he decided), and Lucille, daughter of a Baptist minister, Henry Wall, was born in California. But they met in the middle of the USA, in Oklahoma at an associational meeting. After he finished high school in Walled Lake, Mich., and while he was in the Army during World War II, he was converted, during a church meeting in Muscogee, Okla.

"Now, let me see," he said with a smile as he sat beside me on the couch. "First, I am proud of my children. And then I am proud of my writing."

"We have four children," his wife explained, "and three and a half grandchildren." Jim, graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, is now stationed as a captain at the tropical test center in the Panama Canal Zone. Philip is a physician in San Antonio, Tex. LuAnne, married to Ricky Ford, is music and youth director at Tishomingo Baptist Church. (She was visiting her parents that day, so we met her.) John is a graduate assistant in mathematics at University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"When the children were young, we went camping all over the United States," Dr. Travis said. "The Grand Canyon, El Paso, Corpus Christi, Carlsbad, Lake Mead, West Point. . . . The travel was educational for them." And they all still like to go camping.

As for his writing, I know that he is co-author of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board book, *Introduction to Baptist Work*. And he has written many curriculum materials for the Sunday School Board—quarterlies and teachers' commentaries for Sunday School lessons for adults. In fact, he is the writer of the current quarter's Bible Book commentary on Amos, Hosea, and Jonah. And I know he did a good job. I used it when I substituted for a teacher a couple of weeks ago, and it's rich. Also he said he wrote the commentary on the last seven prophets, coming up in 1986.

His numerous articles in the *Illustrator* include one in the past on Jupiter and a coming one on the gods of ancient Egypt ("that was a hard one," he remembered).

Our time was running out. He had to be at the college at 2:30 to interview a prospective ministerial student. "I interview every man who enrolls here. Did you know that Blue Mountain trains more preachers than any college in the state?"

James Travis is listed in the *Directory of American Scholars*. He earned a B.A. degree, with honors, from OBU and a doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. Since 1960, he has been chairman of the Division of Biblical Studies at Blue Mountain College. In that post he succeeded the late Wilfred Tyler, who in 1960 became president of the college.

"We have Bible classes in four areas: Biblical survey (New Testa-

Thursday, May 31, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Letters to the Editor

News obligation

Editor:

I would like to comment on the letter from Susan Marks, published in the May 10 issue of the *Baptist Record*. She seems to be criticizing you for publishing the article by Toby Druin of the *Texas Baptist Standard*. I, for one, feel that it is not only your duty but your obligation to keep Mississippi Baptists informed of what is going on in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The rumor mill was spreading this already. We just didn't know how much was true and what was not true.

She says in her letter that the article seemed biased and critical of James Robison, Milton Green and staff. I agree with her that it was critical. However, if it is true, and I have no reason to doubt it, how can she say it is biased?

I also agree that we should not unjustly criticize a Christian brother. However, I have heard James Robison criticize pastors, local churches, Baptist schools, and Southern Baptist evangelists. In fact, several years ago at a crusade at Mississippi College, he criticized one evangelist by name very harshly not once but twice in his sermon.

It seems from what I've read and heard about this that James Robison and his people are trying to lead people into a separate group with a doctrine that I believe to be completely away from the Bible.

Sherrill Lloyd
812 N. Monroe
Clinton, MS 39056

Thanks from Water Valley

Editor:

The people of Water Valley and the membership of the First Baptist Church are sincerely grateful to Baptists and Baptist churches all over

ment and Old Testament); church history; practical studies; and how to interpret the Bible for the world today. We are a liberal arts college, not a Bible school, so we leave the religion courses for the seminaries."

During his own student days, he served in several pastorates. As a professor, he has served in many interim pastorates. "I am committed to Bible teaching in the local church," he stressed. He has been the teacher of January Bible studies in countless churches and associational and pastors' conferences. The other week, he was getting ready to teach fifth and sixth grade children in VBS in his own church, Lowrey Memorial. (Mrs. Travis is pianist at Lowrey Memorial. She teaches library science and is assistant librarian at the college.)

Brilliant. Empathetic. Energetic. Enthusiastic. Proud of his Gold Medal, and rightly so. That's how I see James Travis. Genuine.

At the door, he paused to pray for us as W. D. and I began our drive home. He walked out on the porch to wave goodbye. I wondered if we had made him miss his noonday run.

this state for attention, affection, and gifts sent to our people in this time of disaster.

Especially would we like to thank the Mississippi Baptist Convention for the excellent manner in which the Disaster Mobile Unit served our city. Mr. Jim Didlake and the group of people who worked with him made a profound impression on the people of this area. Not only did they serve over 12,000 meals and thousands of Coke-snacks, but the true meaning of brotherly love and optimism contributed to an attitude our community truly needed.

As mayor of Water Valley, I thank you and other church-related groups and humanitarian groups that have helped relieve the suffering and despair of our town when the need was great.

As a local pastor, I am proud of our Mississippi Baptist Convention's role in ministering in such a definite and well ordered manner alongside these other groups. This Disaster Unit in action is a very useful and comforting ministry.

Together, we thank you, Mississippi Baptist Convention and people.

Very truly yours,
Hamric Henry
Mayor of Water Valley
Guy Reedy
Pastor of First Baptist Church

Huntsville anniversary

Editor:

First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary on June 3, 1984. The church, located at 600 Governors Drive, is the oldest Baptist Church in the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Highlights of the celebration for June 3 include special speakers from throughout the southeast. These include Dr. J. T. Ford, 35th pastor of First Baptist Church, who will speak at the morning worship service. Following lunch the speaker will be Dr. Edwin Johnston, grandson of Dr. S. J. Baker (former pastor of First Baptist Church). Miss Lucy Hoskins of the Baptist Sunday School Board will give a short talk at the evening worship service. Miss Hoskins was the first full-time secretary of First Baptist Church. Dr. Hudson Baggett, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, will be the speaker at the evening worship service.

Former members and friends of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, are invited to attend and share in this time of celebration of 175 years of Christian service.

Robert E. Quick, Sr., Chm.,
Church History Committee
First Baptist Church
600 Governors Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Baptist ETV

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—A Baptist board has been given permission by the Federal Communications Commission to build a full-power educational television station in San Francisco.

When transmission facilities are in operation, probably one to two years away, the station operating on channel 62, will be a major outlet for programs of the American Christian Television System (ACTS). Other stations with full-power televising the networks primarily offered through cable television are in Houston and in Greenville, N.C.

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Opposition to nomination of Pressler announced

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A challenge to the nomination of Paul Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge and leader of the inerrancy movement in the Southern Baptist Convention, is being planned for the annual meeting of the SBC June 12-14 in Kansas City, Mo.

Pressler, a member of First Baptist Church of Houston, was nominated to fill an unexpired three-year term on the SBC Executive Committee by the 1984 Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees. He must be elected at the annual meeting in order to serve.

In addition to the Pressler nomination, a challenge to at least one other action is scheduled, and challenges are rumored from Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina.

The Committee on Boards subcommittee, scheduled to meet prior to the Kansas City convention to fill any vacancies caused by death, relocation or other reason, will hear a protest from Richard Eskew, pastor of First Baptist Church of Yadkinville, N.C., who was eligible for a second term on the Home Mission Board but was not renominated.

Pressler, who emerged into the SBC spotlight in 1979 with charges the denomination was becoming increasingly liberal, was nominated to fill the unexpired term of C. Welton Gaddy, who moved from Texas to Georgia and became ineligible to serve on the Executive Committee.

C. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church of Amarillo, Texas, and president of the 2.2-million member Baptist General Convention of Texas, told Baptist Press he will nominate Bruce W. McIver, pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church of Dallas, as Gaddy's replacement.

In a letter to Charles Fuller, chairman of the Committee on Boards, Moore did not mention Pressler, but instead focused on McIver's qualifications. "In the spirit of Bylaw 16 (8) of the Southern Baptist Convention . . . and its provisions for amending the report of the Committee on Boards, I wish to inform you I will offer the nomination of Bruce W. McIver . . ." Moore wrote.

Bylaw 16(8) encourages persons desiring to challenge the report to publicize the challenge in advance of the convention to allow the messengers to be informed.

The letter pointed out McIver is immediate past chairman of the Texas Baptist Executive Board, immediate past chairman of the SBC Committee on Order of Business, and is a past vice-president of the BGCT and chairman of the board of trustees of the SBC Annuity Board.

"Dr. McIver is a respected and proven leader. He knows Baptists and represents the broad mainstream of Texas Baptists," Moore wrote. "In these days when close scrutiny is required in the planning and administration of Southern

Baptist mission dollars, Bruce McIver can lend proven experience and wisdom."

Moore concluded by noting the "proposed amendment will be offered out of a sincere love for our convention and a heartfelt desire to see it move forward in unity and harmony." He added the nomination is "not an 'anti' movement of any kind," but said he believes "we should elect people who are in the mainstream and not 'one-project people'."

Admitting he does not know Pressler, Moore said: "I really haven't talked to that many people about it. I have talked to some (people) since I decided something should be done to present someone who is in the mainstream."

Pressler told Baptist Press "everyone is free to nominate whomever they wish. . . ." He said "contest of the report . . . can be disruptive and disharmonious. I would have hoped Dr. Moore, whom I do not know, would have made an effort to get to know me before he took the step of proposing someone against me."

Pressler said: "I prayed about accepting the nomination for a long time and finally decided it would be best to work within the system on a diverse and diversified committee of 69 persons where I could consider the opinions of others and they could consider my opinions. Then we could make a realistic effort to harmonize differences."

"It is my desire to work within the system to harmonize with other Southern Baptists and to seek to promote the great evangelistic and missionary emphasis of Southern Baptists which has been motivated by an allegiance to and belief in the truth of God's word."

Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., said Moore's action "reflects the privilege of the convention. The Committee on Boards is responsible to offer nominations. It is the responsibility of the convention to elect the nominees."

Fuller said the report always is subject to nominations from the floor. "I personally feel that right ought to be there. It is allowed for and we should expect it could happen. I personally hope we will always have that right."

He added, however, he "hopes there will not be a lot of it."

Fuller said messengers "have the opportunity to approve or disapprove the selections of the committee," but should not question the "procedure or the legitimacy of committee actions."

When the seven-member subcommittee meets in Kansas City, Fuller said he will ask it to review the Eskew case. "In response to a number of letters, and in response to a personal appeal by Richard Eskew, I will present the matter to the subcommittee," Fuller said. "In order to maintain our integrity and in order to be totally fair, we need to hear the appeal."

Eskew served a three-year unexpired term and then a full four-year term on the HMB. Under convention guidelines, he is eligible for a second term. North Carolina representatives said they felt 11 years as a trustee was an "excessively long time," Fuller said.

Fuller added the Committee on Boards, which accepted the rationalization, was fully aware of the action. It also was aware, Fuller said, that another HMB trustee, Kenneth Fournet of Lafayette, La., under exactly the same circumstances, was renominated.

In the Eskew case, both the Biblical Recorder, the North Carolina state Baptist newspaper, and trustees of the Home Mission Board have asked that Eskew be returned as a trustee.

Fuller said he has asked Mrs. Ann Frazier of Roanoke Rapids, N.C., the North Carolina lay representative on the committee, to be present for the discussion. T. W. Wilson of Montreat, N. C., the clergy representative, is out of the country.

"The committee was not oblivious that one man was not renominated while another man with the exact set of circumstances was. While the action was not unanimous, the committee went along with Louisiana in one case and with North Carolina in the other," Fuller said.

Fuller said he does not know what action the subcommittee can take since its duties are limited to "filling vacancies. The circumstances are very plain: replacing persons who decline to serve, resign, move from the state, die or otherwise become ineligible to serve."

He said in the case of Eskew a "subcommittee report" could be offered, "although I don't know what purpose that might serve." He noted he does not believe the subcommittee has the privilege of substituting nominees, except in the specified conditions.

Other possibilities include floor action, in which Eskew could be reinstated, or Thomas S. Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dunn, N. C., who replaced Eskew, declining the nomination, leaving the subcommittee free to act.

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

One of the institutes started in 1983 was Faculdade Baptista de Teologia de Amazonas in Equatorial Brazil which began with an enrollment of 42.

More than one-third of the SBC missionary force has received MasterLife discipleship training since 1980. Those missionaries lead an estimated 600 MasterLife groups overseas, with an average of eight to a group.

Ministers' wives plan meet

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Wana Ann Fort, missionary physician in Zimbabwe, will be the featured speaker at the 20th annual luncheon of the Conference of Ministers' Wives, June 12, at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel in Kansas City, Mo.

The Ministers' Wives Conference is one of the auxiliary meetings to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled June 12-14 in the H. Roe Bartle Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center.

Theme of the meeting will be "With Thee is the Fountain of Life," according to conference president Gerry Dunkin, wife of Raymond G. Dunkin, pastor of Bellmead First Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

In addition to Fort, entertainment will be provided by dual pianists and singers Charles and Kay Mathews of Houston.

During the luncheon, the conference will present the Mrs. J. M. Dawson award to a minister's wife who has exhibited outstanding service to her church and denomination.

Tickets may be purchased at the advance registration table at the convention center.

Golden Gate trustees name Cate dean

By Mark Smith

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — A key administrative post was created, a new academic dean named and a record budget approved by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees during their spring meeting.

Trustees approved the position of vice-president of the southern California center as part of their commitment to expand the operation of the seminary branch located in Garden Grove in metropolitan Los Angeles. J. Thurmond George, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gilroy, Calif., is Golden Gate's choice for filling of this post. However, no response from him is expected until around July 1.

Robert L. Cate, 51, was elected dean of academic affairs to replace W. Morgan Patterson who left the school in April to become president of Georgetown (Ky.) College.

Trustees also approved a budget of \$3,974,609 for 1984-85 fiscal year representing an increase of \$450,000 in 1983-84 budget.

Cate, a native of Nashville, Tenn., joined Golden Gate in 1975 as associate professor of Old Testament interpretation after serving more than 10 years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Aiken, S.C. In 1980, he became full professor.

He holds a bachelor of engineering degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, and bachelor of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. In addition, he has done doctoral studies at Princeton University and Oxford University.

The board authorized the seminary to employ engineers to prepare plot plans for the 36-unit condominium complex and 24 single family dwellings provided for in the master plan recently approved for the use and development of seminary property. It also appointed a building and development committee consisting of board members to oversee the further development of the 148 acre campus.

In addition, the trustees authorized seminary executives to get preliminary architectural renderings of the proposed chapel-world mission center and to request tentative approval of the structure from county authorities.

The board authorized the administration in its discretion to refinance the debt on Garden Apartments, a 32-unit student housing complex in nearby Corte Madera and to retain housing funds now on hand for the building of additional units.

Reelected chairman was Carlos McLeod, Dallas, director of evangelism for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Trustees voted to hold the fall meeting each year in addition to their traditional spring assembly. It was their consensus that a second meeting would pay larger dividends by keeping the board better informed so they could be more involved in the achievement of the goals of the seminary.

(Mark Smith writes for Golden Gate Seminary.)

Marriage fest set in fall at Glorieta

NASHVILLE—"Building a Christian Home" is the theme of this year's Fall Festival of Marriage, Oct. 19-20, at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Sponsored by the family ministry department of the Sunday School Board, the weekend retreat is for couples who want to participate in Christian enrichment activities.

Conference topics include intimacy, communication, money management, problem solving, sexuality, two-career marriages, biblical foundations, and parenting.

Speakers for the festival are Jim Keith, pastor, First Church, Richardson, Texas, (and former pastor at First Church, Gulfport); and Bruce McIver, pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas.

The cost of the conference is \$150 per couple. A \$60 deposit should be sent to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M., 87535.

No child care will be provided for the event.

13 rejoin overseas force; board appoints 20 others

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Thirteen former missionaries with a total of 164 years missionary experience re-joined the Southern Baptist overseas mission force in May.

It was believed to be the largest number ever reappointed at a single meeting of the Foreign Mission Board and brought to 27 the total reappointed this year.

With 29 new missionaries appointed at the same meeting, total missionaries named this year climbed to 110. With these additions, the total missionary force reached a record 3,404 on May 23. It will drop slightly May 31 as nine missionary resignations become effective.

Charles Bryan, senior vice president for overseas operations, called the reappointees a "significant group." He noted six field evangelists in the group will help meet the board's priority overseas personnel need.

The reappointees have an average of 12 years overseas experience, with one couple, Harold and Alice Hurst, of Missouri and Florida, being 25-year mission veterans. The Hursts, who worked 22 years in Honduras and three years in Panama, will do general evangelism work in Mexico.

Since 1977 Hurst has been on the board's staff, first as an assistant to the medical consultant and later as consultant for resource development.

Like most others in the reappointment group, the Hursts already are fluent in the language, understand the culture and can arrive on the field ready to start work almost immediately.

Reappointees, while still only a small percent of the total mission force, have been increasing in recent years as the board has sought to improve communication with those who for a variety of reasons have had to resign and return to the United States. Twenty-four persons were reappointed in 1983 and a similar number in 1982.

Last year the board lost slightly more than three percent of its missionaries through death or resignation, its lowest loss rate since 1966. But medical consultant Franklin Fowler said it is too early to say whether the lower rate is a trend. In 1982 losses had reached a high of 5.4 percent.

More than 40 percent of those who resigned last year had been on the field less than five years. To help minister to such persons' needs, the board now is doing on-the-field evaluations and also plans to hold debriefing sessions for returning first-term missionaries at the new Cauthen Missionary Learning Center near Richmond.

During the meeting the board played host to a representative of Soviet Baptists and also voted to establish work on the Indian Ocean islands of Madagascar and Reunion, though no personnel were assigned.

Michael Zhidkov, director of education for the Evangelical Christian Union and one of the pastors of Moscow Baptist Church, was part of a four-man Soviet Baptist delegation which has visited Southern Baptist institutions in recent weeks. Accompanied by John David Hopper,

Southern Baptist fraternal representative to eastern Europe, Zhidkov met with board members and staff and spoke briefly at the board meeting.

During April the board provided \$5,000 for relief of cyclone victims on Madagascar. The funds will be administered by missionary Norman Wood on Mauritius.

Missionary News

Doug Kellum, missionary to the Philippines, is in the States on furlough (address: c/o Berclair Baptist Church, 4584 Summer Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38122). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Clarksdale and grew up in Tutwiler.

Robert and Angelyn Golmon, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 481 Jacks Creek Circle, Henderson, Tenn. 38340). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Franklin County and lived in Moss Point during much of his early life. She is from Jackson, Tenn.

Pastor dies

Henry Lee Davis Sr., pastor of a Southern Baptist church in California—First Union Baptist Church of San Francisco—for several years, died May 9, following a long illness. A native of Mississippi, Davis acknowledged his call to preach when he was 17 and served 54 years as pastor of churches in Mississippi, St. Louis, Mo., Detroit, Mich., and San Francisco. First Union was the first black church to join San Francisco Peninsula Association. A. H. Newman, president of the California State Baptist Convention, presided at the funeral service May 14. Representatives from every black convention participated in the service. Interment was in Detroit. Survivors include his wife, two sons, three daughters, and nine grandchildren.

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Thursday, May 31, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Frank Stovall will head MC music department

CLINTON—Frank Stovall, a native of Clinton and a 1951 graduate of Mississippi College, has been ap-



proved by the Mississippi College board of trustees as head of the music department, effective Aug. 1. He succeeds Jack Lyall, who will continue to teach in the department.

Stovall is professor and chairman of the voice department of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Stovall majored at MC in voice and a minor in keyboard. He received an M.A. from the University of Alabama in music education in 1956 and the doctor of musical arts degree from the University of Texas in 1967 with a major in voice.

He has served as minister of music and youth at First Church, Canton, Miss. and as minister of music at First Church, Bluefield, W.V. He was

chairman of the music department at Bluefield College from 1952-1957, when he joined the faculty of the seminary.

His publications include *Schubert's Heine Songs: A Critical and Analytical Study* and *The Church Soloist's Handbook*.

Stovall has been a member of the Fort Worth Opera Association, the Schola Cantorum of Texas, Breward Music Center, and The Carmel Bach Festival. He has sung and studied extensively in Europe and engaged in special study at the Juilliard School of Music.

He is widely known as a vocal/choral clinician and a lecturer in vocal pedagogy.

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Shortfall may force . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Euliss has been associate director of communications for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for the past two years, and has been on the communication staff of that state convention since 1974.

James Ervin Forrest, director of missions for Long Beach Harbor Baptist Association, California since 1970, was elected assistant director for the HMB church loans division's western region.

J. Leon Boyd, director of missions for Pinellas Baptist Association, Florida, since 1980, was elected associate director of the HMB's metropolitan missions department and will assist in developing and implementing strategies for metropolitan areas with 50,000 to 1,000,000 residents.

Board members also discussed a \$250,000 grant given to the Metro Baptist Church in New York City to help the congregation purchase a church facility in Manhattan. Board members were polled by mail to approve the action after the Metro congregation came up short of the money needed to close on the property.

HMB Mission Vice President Gerald Palmer said he knew of no other situation in the United States

where he would recommend such an action by the board. Funds from an endowment by the late Cecil B. Day, founder of Days Inn motel chain, were used because of Day's commitment to reaching the urban northeast, said Palmer.

In other actions, board members approved the "termination by mutual agreement" of James Lowder, pastor/director of Dolores Street Baptist Church in San Francisco, as a Christian social ministries missionary.

Lowder, arrested last year for his part in a nuclear protest in San Francisco, had been jointly employed by the Dolores Street congregation, the Home Mission Board, and the California Southern Baptist Convention. The move will make Lowder accountable only to the local church.

The HMB and the California convention will continue to provide a grant to support ministries of the Dolores Street church.

The Dolores Street church is one of several CSM pastor/director positions to be phased out except for grant support, said to Paul Adkins, HMB director of Christian social ministries.

(Michael Tuttleow writes for the Home Mission Board.)

Freedom is Fragile

That's why the BAPTIST JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS is at work for Southern Baptists in Washington, D.C., **witnessing** to the historic Baptist love of liberty, **interpreting** separation of church and state for today, **guarding** against the use of public funds for private and parochial schools, **warning** against sending a United States ambassador to the Roman Catholic Church, **alerting** Baptists to important changes in Internal Revenue rulings, **shielding** missionaries from the dangers of CIA involvements, **supporting** fair tax laws on overseas income to save millions of mission dollars, **leading** the push for an equal access law to allow genuinely voluntary religious activities by student-led groups in public schools, **protecting** from government intrusion the pension dollars you have with the Annuity Board . . . and much more.

Yes, we all need the Baptist Joint Committee . . . because freedom is fragile.

(Paid for by friends of the BJCPA)

Picayune notes 50th year of Delaughter's ministry

Thomas J. Delaughter, professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew, New Orleans Seminary, recently celebrated having served fifty

years in the gospel ministry. He was ordained on April 28, 1934. On April 29, First Church, Picayune, where he is currently a member, recognized him and his wife for their years of distinguished service.

In addition to Bible conferences, revivals, and supply preaching, Delaughter continues an active ministry in his own church, teaching a Sunday School class and leading the weekly workers' meeting. In addition, he is doing some re-writing for the Home Mission Board of materials to be used in the work in pioneer areas.

His pastorates in Mississippi have included First Church, Woodville, and First Church, Pascagoula. Among his Louisiana pastorates was Coliseum Place Church, New Orleans.

During the spring semester of 1982, Delaughter served as scholar in residence at Louisiana College.



Raymon O. Leake, pastor at First, Picayune, left, presents a plaque to the Delaughters.

Mississippi Baptist activities

June 3 Religious Liberty Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
Baptist Record Sunday (BR Emphasis in each church)

Housing tax breaks won't be axed soon

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Senate has voted to prevent the Internal Revenue Service from eliminating housing tax breaks for all clergy and military personnel before Jan. 1, 1986.

By voice vote, the Senate agreed to an amendment offered by Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., and Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., extending double housing tax breaks for ministers and military personnel through 1985. The Warner-Helms amendment came in response to a 1983 IRS revenue ruling which prohibited ministers from taking mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions to the extent these normally-deductible expenses were attributable to a tax-exempt housing allowance and concern that IRS was planning to impose a similar ruling on military housing.

The 1983 clergy housing ruling (Rev. Rul. '83-3) was scheduled for implementation at the end of June 1983, but IRS later issued a transitional ruling extending the effective date until Jan. 1, 1985, for ministers who occupied or had a contract to purchase their homes as of June 3, 1983. Last month, the Senate Finance Committee agreed to extend the effective date for the same category of ministers for one year.

The language agreed to by the Senate was a compromise urged by Finance Committee Chairman Robert

Dole, R-Kan., after Warner and Helms originally had offered an amendment which permanently would have exempted clergy and military housing from application to Section 265 of the Internal Revenue Code which bars double tax benefits.

Dole, floor manager of the pending tax bill, suggested the simple extension of housing benefits for both groups and promised his committee along with the Armed Services Committee would hold hearings on the issue by Oct. 1.

A Warner aide told Baptist Press the Virginia Senator will pursue a permanent ban through the hearings announced by Dole.

Warner said his intention is "to protect the compensation now received by two of the most dedicated and worthy professional groups in our society; namely, military personnel and clergy."

Warner said implementation of a ruling denying housing breaks to either group could "have serious financial consequences." He added, "The total gain to the U.S. Treasury, though not calculated yet by the IRS or Treasury Department, is estimated by them to be relatively small."

Larry Chesser is on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.



WMU, SBC welcomes Mississippi writers

Among the 48 writers from all over the U.S. who participated in a recent national writers conference at Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, in Birmingham, Ala. were five Mississippi writers. The purpose of the four-day conference was to give instructions and preparation for writing 1985-86 materials. Pictured are Evelyn Vaughn of Jackson (seated right); standing l to r: Margaret Ann Cummings, Clinton; Ewilda Fancher, Coffeeville; Sharon Neff, Arcola; and Anne McWilliams, Clinton. Pictured with the group is Lynn Yarbrough (seated left), the new publications section director, WMU, SBC. She will assume the responsibilities as publications section director June 2.

N.O. grants degrees to Mississippians

NEW ORLEANS—During spring graduation exercises at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary 32 students from Mississippi were among more than 180 individuals receiving degrees.

Students from Mississippi receiving degrees were:

Doctor of Theology—Argile Asa Smith, Jr., pastor of First Church, Lyman.

Doctor of Ministry—Jimmy D. Porter, pastor of First Church, Louisville; Robert F. Williams, Jr., pastor of Improve Church, Columbia.

Doctor of Education—Jimmie Thomas Beville, counselor, Pascagoula.

Master of Divinity—Joseph H. Barber III, of Clinton; James Burton of Wiggins; Thomas E. Creely, U.S. Naval Reserve chaplain, Tupelo; Randy Scott Johnson, a native of Pascagoula, and pastor of Baratara Baptist Church, Lafitte, La.; Walter Stephens Jordan, Jr. of Clinton; James Marion McIntosh of Pineville; J. Steven Mooneyham of Calhoun City; Roy A. Porter, associate pastor of First Church, Gulfport;

Bruce Vaughan Rowell, pastor of Osyka Baptist Church; Michael Kane Shumock of Sumrall; B. Mark Spain, pastor of Vietnamese Baptist Mission, Gulf Coast Association; David L. Sumrall, pastor of Eastside Church, Gulfport; James Allen Walters of Laurel.

Master of Religious Education—Cathy Anne Bailey of Jackson; James Lee Bailey, pastor of Victory Church, Bassfield; Alex Colson of Biloxi; Samuel M. Dowdle, Jr., of Calcedonia; Charles Hines of Natchez; Margaret Catherine

Newell of Hazlehurst; Regina Annette Prishmont of Biloxi; Karen Reinette Rowell of Brandon; Jeanette Ann Taylor of West Point; Michael Jon West of Hattiesburg.

Master of Church Music—James Walter Parnell, minister of music, Harmony Church, Picayune; Kenneth Gregory Rester of Poplarville.

Associate of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry—Lane Felton Bryant of Moselle; Robert John Rounds, Jr. of Brookhaven;

Associate of Divinity in Religious Education Ministry—Romey "Ronnie" Power of Jackson.



NEW ORLEANS—Five Mississippi doctoral students received degrees during May graduation ceremonies on the campus of New Orleans Seminary. Pictured with Landrum P. Leavell II, seminary president, prior to graduation exercises are (left to right) C. Gregory Long, doctor of theology; Argile A. Smith, Jr. Doctor of theology; Jimmy Porter, doctor of ministry; Leavell; Robert Williams, Jr., doctor of ministry; and Jimmie Thomas Beville, doctor of education.

Removal Dates

Richmond Church, Tupelo: June 3-8; David B. Grant, pastor, Broadmoor, Jackson, preaching; Mrs. Kathryn Barfield, Yazoo City, leading the music; Robert H. Rogers, pastor.

Pine Crest Church (Rankin) at Plantation Shores near Florence: June 3-6; Dave Townsend, pastor, Edon Church, pastor, Edon Church, Stringer, evangelist; Danny Brock, Jackson, music director; L. C. Newell, pastor; services at 7:30 nightly and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Freeny Church, Carthage: June 17-22; Tim Horton, Wake Forest, Sturgis, preaching; Jessie Bennett, minister of music, Winfield, La., leading the music; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. during week; at 11 a.m. on Sunday; Sammy Stroud, pastor; Johnny Eubanks, minister of music.

Homecomings

Bowlin Church (Attala): homecoming; June 10; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; Lester Reeves, bringing the message at the 11 a.m. service; Johnny Parks, pastor.

Indian Springs (Perry): homecoming; June 3; worship service at 11 a.m.; Terry White, pastor, to deliver the message; lunch to be served; music group, Southern Harmony, to present a concert at 1:30 p.m.

Cherry St., Clarksdale: June 3; homecoming; beginning at 10:30 a.m.; visiting evangelist, Harrison John, Pleasant Grove, Conway, Ark.; special music in afternoon; Wesley Nicholas, pastor.

Newton County awards Bible drill trophies

Newton County Association sponsored a Bible Drills Awards Banquet at First Church, Union, on May 21.

Trophies were presented to 43 youths and children, with one youth receiving a trophy for being in the Selection Tournament. Nine churches had participants.

Southwestern plans 'Chair of Prayer'

By Art Toalston

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Years ago, as a pastor, Jack Gray was "trying to prepare 'meals' for church members when I wasn't eating well myself."

Now, at Southwestern Seminary here, Gray is teaching future church leaders "how to eat a balanced meal out of the riches of prayer and God's word and teach other people to do the same."

Gray will retire this year as professor of missions, a post he has held since 1956, but during the coming year he will be adjunct professor of the new Chair of Prayer and Spiritual Formation.

"Southwestern has been a pioneer among seminaries in the field of teaching spiritual development," said seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. The chair is part of an emphasis that gained momentum in 1970, when Gray inaugurated a Spiritual Foundations for Missions course, now listed as Spiritual Formation for Ministry.

Dilday noted the seminary "should not only prepare its students in professional skills, but also in the important areas of prayer, devotional disciplines, and Christlikeness."

"While many seminarians have had a long pilgrimage of spiritual growth, many others come to Southwestern from recent initial encounters with God," he added. "They have had very little experience in the dynamics of personal spiritual growth, much less in how to lead others in spiritual formation."

The idea for a Chair of Prayer and Spiritual Formation, akin to the seminary's L. R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism (Chair of Fire), was first suggested to Dilday by Jack Taylor, a Southwestern graduate, author and Bible conference leader, and 1980-81 first vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

According to Taylor, "We can know a lot, but we cannot know if effectively without the power of prayer." He has been among those raising the \$500,000 endowment

needed for the chair. He reported \$80,000 has been received, including a retired missionary's \$10,000 life savings.

In his travels as a missions professor, Gray said, "I found missionaries on the field and church leaders at home who were experiencing spiritual exhaustion."

And he recalled his days as a pastor, when "I had no means for discipling people. I needed it personally and my people needed it. I had been trained in encounter evangelism, but not follow-up after conversion."

This year, in addition to Spiritual Formation for Ministry, he has taught a year-long MasterLife course. MasterLife, a 26-week small group discipleship program, is "the only instrument for actually training people in discipleship — in becoming disciples and making disciples — that Southern Baptists have ever had," he said.

Gray will continue teaching the Spiritual Formation for Ministry and MasterLife courses. And he intends to initiate some course work in prayer — how to pray, to teach others to pray and to mobilize a church in prayer. He also hopes to schedule guest lecturers and a special prayer emphasis week.

(Art Toalston is co-news editor at Southwestern Seminary. He is former religion editor of the Jackson Daily News.)

Religious group wins dispute with newspapers

By Stan Hasteley

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled May 21 a Washington state court had authority to forbid newspapers from publishing information about members of a small religious group during the pre-trial phase of a slander suit by the group's leader against the newspapers.

All nine high courts justices agreed the Seattle Times and Walla Walla Union-Bulletin were properly restrained by the trial court from disclosing the names, addresses, and contributions of members of the Aquarian Foundation. The group, headed by Keith Rhinehart, believes in the ability to communicate with the dead through seances.

During the six-year period 1973-1979, the two newspapers published 11 articles about Rhinehart and the foundation and its activities. Among the activities described were seances for which people paid Rhinehart, the sale of magical stones, and an "extravaganza" sponsored by Rhinehart at Walla Walla State Penitentiary which allegedly included a naked chorus line.

Rhinehart sued the newspapers along with the authors of the articles and their spouses for more than \$14 million, complaining that the stories contained falsehoods and had the effect of discouraging contributions.

In response, the newspapers began a process of legal "discovery," including a sworn statement from

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP)—Jairy C. Hunter Jr., vice-chancellor for development and business and a member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, N.C., since 1978; has been elected president of Baptist College at Charleston, an institution of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Hunter, a native of Lancaster, S.C., is confident about returning to his home state to lead the financially troubled Baptist institution. Baptist College faces severe financial problems and has undergone several administrative changes since November 1983, when the college's trustees asked for the retirement of John A. Hamrick, the school's first president.

The Southern Carolina Baptist Convention recently announced it would negotiate a \$1 million loan for the school to help pay outstanding debts.

Buddy Smith was recently ordained by West Salem Church, Greene County, to the ministry. He is pastor of East Salem Church, Greene County. Wilbur Walters is pastor at West Salem.

Mrs. Ollie Mae Clingan donated money to landscape the yard of the pastorium of Zion Church, Pontotoc County, in memory of her husband, Wayne Clingan, who was a deacon at Zion. The work was done by a college student, Phil Cates.



MRS. PAULINE WARD, 91, was recently honored by Salem Church, Lauderdale County, with a "This Is Your Life" program. Mrs. Ward has been a member of Salem for 59 years, and is its oldest living member. Skits of Mrs. Ward's courtship and marriage were presented by the youth. A plaque and gifts were presented in appreciation of her "faithful attendance and example of life."

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Stanley A. Nelson, a former staff member of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been appointed associate professor of theology at Golden Gate Seminary.

Nelson, for the past two years, has been at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho where he taught Old Testament, theology, and Baptist history. Previously, he was an associate in the personnel selection department of the FMB, where he served 12 years as director of the missionary journeyman program.

Jerry Mixon, pastor of First Church, Winona, is among the writers of "Sermon Illustrations" for the July-August-September, 1984 issue of Proclaim. His topic is "Teaching."

Two Mississippians were among the students honored at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., during the seminary's sixth annual Honors Day Chapel service. Janie Cox of Raleigh was selected for inclusion in the 1983-84 "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." Ernie Brunson of Jackson was awarded the Will Edd Langford Memorial Scholarship for academic achievement and promise as a doctoral student. It was the first time a doctor of philosophy student had won the award which had traditionally been presented to doctor of ministry students.

Gerald Worzella of Gautier received the bachelor of ministry degree in biblical studies, during the recent commencement services at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla.

Birmingham, Al.—Three Mississippi women will participate in the Woman's Missionary Union Conference June 26 to July 2 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Ridgecrest, N.C. Marilyn Hopkins of Jackson, Marty Perkins of Moss Point, and Dell Scoper of Laurel will lead methods conferences for WMU officers. "By Love Compelled" will be the conference theme.



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43 are graduated from Mid-America

Of 43 Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, graduates for May 11, 1984; the following were from Mississippi:

Diploma of Theology—G. Tommy Clark; Bailey J. Evans; Bruce W. Markley, pastor of Adaton Baptist Church, Adaton.

Master of Divinity—Gary W. Brink; Jerry E. McNeer, pastor of Lake Shore Church, Hughes, Ark.; Asbury H. Martin, Jr., pastor of Providence, Cleveland; Donald M. Minshew, pastor of Lake Forest, Walls; W. Scott Moore; David Rocky Ramsey, pastor of Mt. Pleasant church, Mt. Pleasant; Richard "Kenny" Spain, pastor of Bellevue, Shelby.

Doctor of Theology—Steve P. Wilkes, pastor of First Church, Maumelle, Ark.

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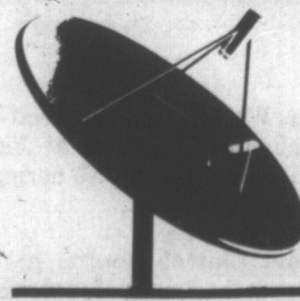
Schedule:

Tuesday, June 12

11:30 a.m.
President's Address,
James T. Draper, Jr.
7:00 p.m.
Sunday School Board Report
7:30 p.m.
Home Mission Board Report
8:30 p.m.
Inauguration of BTN and ACTS

Wednesday, June 13

12:00 p.m.
Convention Sermon,
Russell H. Dilday, Jr.
7:30 p.m.
Foreign Mission Board Report



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(Hasteley writes for the Washington bureau of Baptist Press.)

Methodist meeting stirs emotional debate

BALTIMORE (EP)—The national legislative body for the United Methodist Church May 7 approved a highly controversial report calling on the 9.4-million-member church to begin referring to God and Jesus—in prayers, hymns, and worship—in sexually inclusive language.

Calling God "creator," "source of all life" and "ruler," instead of the more traditional masculine terms of "king," and "father," was called for by the General Conference of the second largest Protestant denomination in the country. But the report, which already has generated stacks of protest petitions from more conservative members around the country, specifically exempted tampering with the Lord's Prayer. And United Methodists will continue to be baptized "... in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

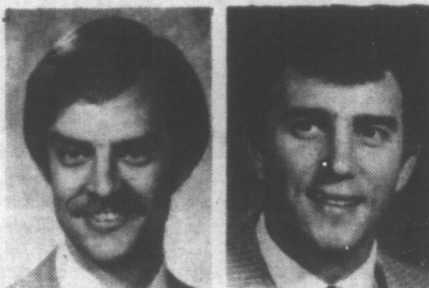
The report adopted by the United Methodists here carries the weight of a formal recommendation voted by the church's governing body, but at this point does not mandate compliance in local churches.

Earlier, in an equally emotional debate, delegates beat back attempts to liberalize the church's position on homosexuality. The church's Book of Discipline—its official rulebook—states that homosexuals are "individuals of sacred worth who need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment..."

While calling for "human and civil rights," for homosexuals, the Discipline rejects "the practice of homosexuality and (we) consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."

Amendment after amendment designed to broaden that statement was voted down.

Colombian Baptists and missionaries in 1983 continued to give priority to the evangelization of Bogota, the capital city, which is expected to be the largest city in western South America by A.D. 2000. Twenty-four new Bible study groups were organized in the city with 800 persons involved.



Mumbower

Robertson

Southwestern gives degrees

FORT WORTH—Thirty-two states are represented among the 433 May graduates of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Thirteen graduates are Mississippians.

The degrees were awarded by seminary President Russell Dilday during the May 11 commencement at the Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth.

Arthur Walker, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Education Commission, Nashville, was the commencement speaker. The invocation was given by Jess Moody, pastor of First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Calif., whose daughter, Martha, was among the graduates.

Mississippi's graduates:

Associate of Divinity: James Orlando Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy L. Thompson of Greenville.

Doctor of Education: Ronald Gene Mumbower, minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson.

Doctor of Philosophy: Garland Larue Robertson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Robertson of Collins.

Master of Arts in Communications: Joe M. Dillon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Dillon of Columbus.

Master of Arts in Religious Education: Gregory Wayne Biggs, minister of youth and activities at First Church, Clinton; Jeffrey Steven Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Edwards of Clinton; Dennis Francis McCall, son of John G. McCall of Vicksburg; Jeanie Sue McVoy, daughter of Roland W. and the late Mary D. McVoy of Vicksburg; Donald Wesley Morrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morrison of Greenville; Murphy Dale Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Young of Laurel.

Master of Divinity: William Burwell Barrett, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Barrett of Lexington; Marty Mann Maltby, son of H. Curtis Maltby of Jackson and Mrs. Alma La Barbera of Houston, Tex.; Sarah Jones Myers, daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Myers of Kosciusko.

Meridian BSU takes honors

For the second consecutive year the Baptist Student Union at Meridian Junior College has been recognized as the most outstanding student organization on campus.

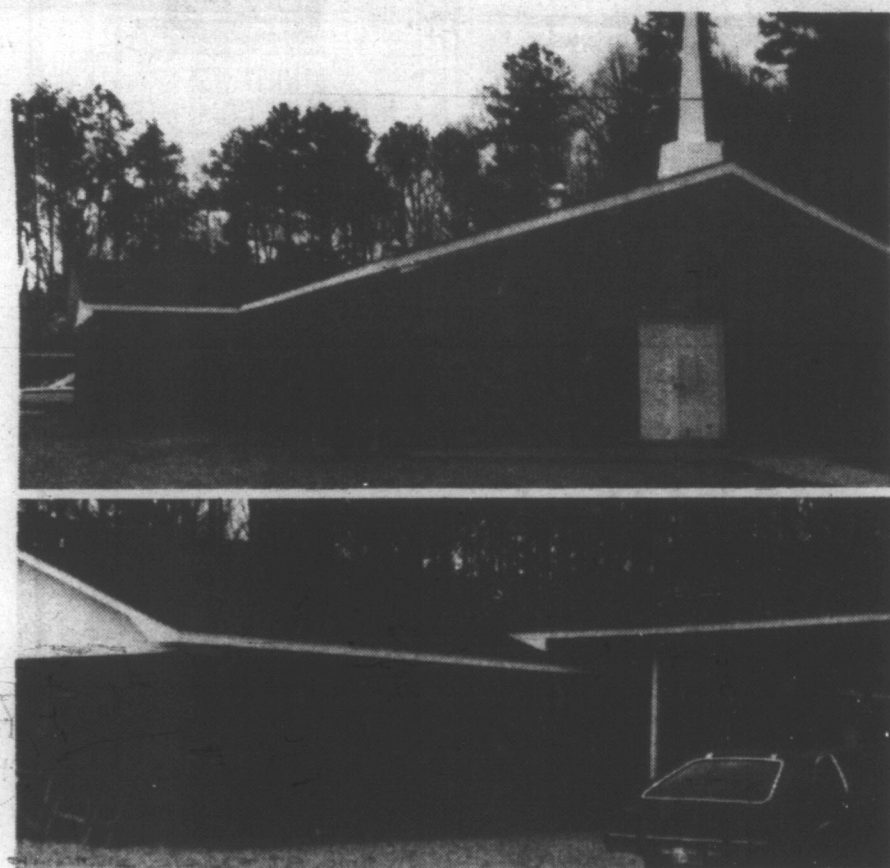
Randall Spears, BSU president, accepted the B. G. Raden Memorial Award during the recent annual awards day. BSU is the only organization to have received this award for 2 consecutive years.

Major criteria in the decision of this recognition was the consideration of the service BSU has rendered to the churches and the community.

Greece. While in the Holy Land Howard delivered a sermon at Jacob's Well. The film was shown during the evening service at 7.

Forest Church youths plan to minister in the Smoky Mountains. On June 23, 30 youths and adult sponsors will leave to do resort mission work near Gatlinburg, Tenn.

—Just for the Record—



RIVER HILL CHURCH, ITAWAMBA COUNTY, has completed its second building program since becoming a church five years ago. The first included renovation of the interior of the auditorium, top photo—adding a baptistry, choir loft, new pews, carpeting, eleven Sunday School classrooms, three restrooms, and a vestibule. The second, bottom photo, included a fellowship hall, kitchen, large room for children's church, two Sunday School classrooms, and a storage area. All the work except the laying of brick was done by the church members. S. E. O'Brian is the pastor.

North 31st Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, presented a special program Sunday, May 27, showing slides taken during the pastor, David Howard's trip to the Holy Land. The North 31st Avenue WMU sponsored the trip. A group of 21 people, from Hattiesburg, Laurel, Greenville, and the Delta, visited five countries, Holland, England, Germany, Israel, and

Book Reviews

A DICTIONARY OF DOCTRINAL TERMS, by Fisher Humphreys and Philip Wise. Broadman Press; 131 pages; paperback, \$4.95.

The authors are a seminary professor (Humphreys) and a pastor (Wise), and throughout the book there is evidence of concern for those who work in both of these arenas. The book is a collection of 100 theological essays. It has the character of a dictionary in that the essays are arranged alphabetically and include brief definitions of the terms being discussed. It is also akin to an encyclopedia in that there is extended discussion of the terms following the definitions. This format is very helpful.

The definitions are, for the most part, original with the authors and avoid the hackneyed phrases of Baptist Training Union. For instance, "grace" is defined as "the love of God which prompts Him to save sinners." Some definitions are both novel and provocative. "Jesus Christ," for instance, is defined as "a first-century Jew who was also the Son of God, the Founder and Lord of the church, who by his death and resurrection provided salvation for humanity."

The essays are written in an easy-going, lucid, and non-technical style which is characteristic of Humphreys' other writings. The essays are so similar to each other in style that the reader cannot determine which author wrote which. In simple language, the authors respond to traditional and recent issues surrounding the terms. They do not answer all of the questions that they raise, and at points this is disappointing. For example, the discussion of "Hell" treats several interpretations

without nailing down the authors' preference. On the whole, however, given the space available, the essays are full and informative.

The authors' claim that they wrote primarily with ministers in mind is fulfilled in both the style and the choice of terms discussed. Pastors will welcome the entry on "Age of Accountability." I do not recall having seen this discussed in other dictionaries of theological handbooks. There are repeated references to *The Baptist Faith and Message*, a statement of faith adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Baptist pastor will find this to be helpful in his teaching ministry. One of the most useful essays for pastors is the one on the "Trinity." The materials could easily be put into sermonic form.

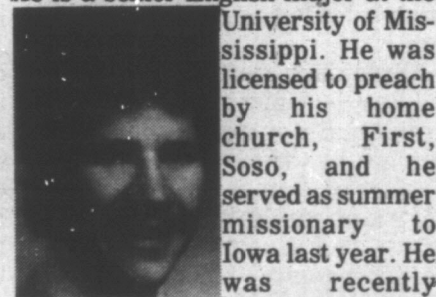
Perhaps the best-written, and certainly the fullest, essay is the one on "Revelation." Like the other essays, this discussion covers an amazing amount of material. The well-read pastor or the theologian will recognize the salient issues that have arisen within the last few centuries concerning the idea of revelation.

The book could perhaps be strengthened if there were cross-references at the conclusion of a number of essays. For example, the article on "God" should be read in conjunction with the essay on "Proofs for God's Existence." Other examples could be cited.

This book comes to us at a time when Baptists are reconsidering their doctrinal heritage. It is a worthy contribution to these discussions and to the larger work of the church in defining its faith and ministry. Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Church, McComb, MS.

Staff Changes

Daniel Hathorne has been called as youth director at First, Calhoun City. He is a senior English major at the



University of Mississippi. He was licensed to preach by his home church, First, Soso, and he served as summer missionary to Iowa last year. He was recently elected state president of the BSU. Anthony S. Kay is pastor at Calhoun City, First.

Unity Church, Greene County, has called Mike Woods as pastor. He is attending New Orleans Seminary.

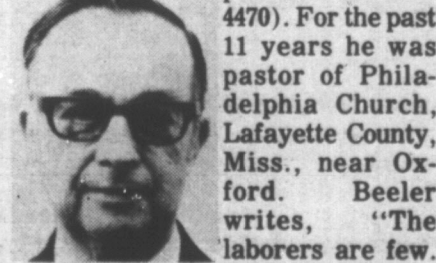
Ken Mask has accepted the position as minister of music at New Hope Church, Lee County.

Bill Bell has resigned as pastor of Locust Hill Church, Pontotoc County. The church honored him with a supper, and presented to him a silver tray and a love offering.

Allen Tyner has resigned South Side Church, Meridian, as minister of music and activities, in order to become the minister of music at Parkview Church, Lakeland, Fla. He had served for 5 1/2 years at South Side. His wife, Brenda, has also resigned her position at South Side as kindergarten-day care director. The Tyners' new home address is: 3920 Golf Village Loop No. 7, Lakeland, Fla. 33805.

New Zion (Simpson): has called Carlton McNeer as pastor. He goes from the pastorate of Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, in Pike County. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and is enrolled at New Orleans Seminary.

Earl Beeler is serving as interim pastor of Calvary Church, Glasgow, Montana (Rox 786, Glasgow, Mont., phone 406-228-4470). For the past 11 years he was pastor of Philadelphia Church, Lafayette County, Miss., near Oxford.



Beeler writes, "The laborers are few. Baptists of Mississippi... pray with us that God will send the right Shepherd to lead the flock here at Calvary Church."

The people's choice

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo
I Samuel 8:4-10, 19-22

It would be logical to assume that if one were living in the Promised Land and had been led there by God, all troubles would have come to an end, and the people would be characterized by peace and contentment. However, such was not the case with Israel. Having entered the land, they ignored the instructions God had given them and allowed unfaithfulness and impurity to damage their relationship to Jehovah. Judges selected by God provided leadership that brought them through many times of crisis, but when these proved inadequate, they were replaced by priestly leaders such as Eli and Samuel.

The demands of the people (8:4-8). The setting for the first of this new series of lessons is the final days of the life of the latter after the aging Samuel had appointed his degenerate sons as his replacement. Uneasy about the military might of Philistia and the other nations on their borders and the possible results of such unworthy leadership, the elders of Israel came to the old priest, expressed their fears, and asked that he appoint a king to reign over them. The words here, "like all the nations," are important. So much of the world's problems result from our attempt to "keep up with the Joneses." Looking at their neighbors, Israel could see the differences in their governments and that of the other nations, but they failed to see that not all that was true of others, but denied to them, was desirable.

There is no way of knowing how much of Samuel's displeasure was due to a feeling of personal rejection, but the Lord's assurance given him indicates that the feeling was there. God explained to him that the rejection was not of Samuel but of God. Actually, this was not anything new. From the days of their settling in Palestine, Israel had tended to forsake God and court the favor of the pagan gods of the land. There was nothing wrong with their desiring a king, for a future monarchy was apparently already planned by God. The earlier theocracy that had existed for so many years had proven only as effective as the men who had acted as God's chosen leaders had administered it.

My aged history professor at Mercer, a British subject, insisted that if one had a perfect king, the monarchy was the perfect form of government, for needs of the people could be instantly supplied without a lot of political red-tape. Unfortunately, having observed his nation for over half a century and having studied her entire history, he admitted that such an ideal situation had never existed.

The new ruler of Israel was certainly the finest choice available. God chose Saul, and the new king was anointed by Samuel at Mizpah. Although the old prophet continued to exert an influence on his people, the history of the nation was henceforth all down hill. Jealousy and insecurity on the part of Saul and greater sins on

the part of his successors would ultimately lead Israel into captivity.

The sin of the people was not in their request but in their motives. They felt that God was no longer the answer to their needs. An earthly king could judge them, go out before them, and fight their battles. We cannot condemn them too severely until we are ready to quit putting all of our faith in modern science, political maneuvering, and military might to the exclusion of the intervention of God.

God's response (8:9-10, 19-22). Though their timing may have been contrary to any future plans of God, he commanded Samuel to grant the people their request but explained to them all that having such a king would entail. Most of us have learned the wisdom of listening to God when we have insisted on our own way. Our dreams are all too often nothing but dreams, so when facing reality, we have found that we cannot do without God. Even after being warned by God through these words of Samuel, the people continued to insist that they be given a king.

God is sovereign, but he had entrusted mankind with the freedom of choice. This allowed Israel to insist, "Nay, but we will have a king over us." The rebellious person still says, "I know what God's Word teaches, but I still want to do as I please." The results of such insistence continues to be the same.

A day for God and us

By Gerald Buckley, pastor, Parkway, Natchez
Mark 2:23-28 Luke 13:10, 14-16

As a child, I remember being confused about how to observe the Lord's Day. We had some fascinating discussions in our twelve-year-old Sunday School class as to what one should and should not do on Sunday. After one rather heated discussion pertaining to the Lord's Day, I remember riding past some public tennis courts that Sunday afternoon. There on one of the courts was a leader in our church. He and his son were playing tennis. I was shocked to see this church leader playing tennis on the Lord's Day, and I then pondered about how this day should be spent.

My confusion over the proper observance of the Lord's Day is shared by many Christians.

I. Conflict over the Sabbath (Mark 2:23-26)

One of the most persistent conflicts that Jesus had with Jewish religious leaders was over proper observance of the Sabbath. Over the years, the Jewish community had made hundreds of rules and regulations to govern one's behavior on the Sabbath. Most of the regulations were related to restrictions against work. The idea seemed to have grown that to keep the Sabbath holy meant to make it as unpleasant and confining as possible.

The disciples walked through a grainfield one Sabbath and plucked some grain. The Jewish law allowed persons to pick a few heads to eat. The Pharisees, having observed this behavior, accused Jesus' disciples of unlawful activity. It was not stealing grain that they were guilty of. Rather, the Pharisees accused them of breaking the Sabbath law by harvesting and threshing grain.

This confrontation seems somewhat absurd to us, but it was a serious matter for the Pharisees. Jesus answered their charge by referring to an incident in the Old Testament when religious rules were broken to meet men's physical needs. David, on one occasion, entered the house of worship and took loaves of bread that had been consecrated to the Lord. Ordinarily, these loaves were not to be used for common purposes. Jesus' point is that religious regulations do not take precedence over the needs of persons.

II. A gift from God (Mark 2:27-28)

Jesus spoke clearly to the Pharisees—"The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." This is one of the most informative statements ever made about the Sabbath. Jesus was informing his hearers that the Sabbath was a gift from God to his children. It was for man's benefit and not given to burden him. Simply stated, this means that the Sabbath was to be a day of rest.

Gerald Kennedy tells of two parties who started out across the plains in the pioneer days, going west to California. One was led by a religious man and one was led by an irreligious man. One group stopped all of each Lord's Day for worship and rest. The other party was so anxious to reach the gold of California that it would not take time to stop. The men drove every day. The amazing thing is that the party which observed the Sabbath arrived first. It is a well estab-

lished fact that a person can do more work in six days than in seven. A run-down person is an unproductive person.

Jesus was teaching that the Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath. Christ was not attacking the Sabbath. He was not opening the door for men and women to disregard that very special day. Indeed, time and again we read of him going to worship on the Sabbath, not because he wanted to and needed to. In that revolutionary claim he put God squarely on the side of people. **III. A clash of ideas (Luke 13:10, 14-16)**

Jesus healed a woman with a crooked spine, only to be confronted by the angry ruler of the Synagogue. He was indignant because Jesus had healed her. In his view, healing was a form of work.

Jesus called the ruler a hypocrite because of his attitude. He pointed out the hypocrisy of allowing animals to be untied and led to water on the Sabbath, but not the healing of a woman in great need. Jesus was saying that people are more important than rules.

A legalistic approach to the observance of the Lord's Day is to be avoided. Sunday should be a day of rest. Consider the importance of a day of rest in light of the dominance of the destructive phenomenon called stress. Calendars are full. Expectations are excessive. More appointments must be kept. Energies are drained.

Sunday also should be a day of worship. Without the resource of worship, life closes in on us. Worship puts us in touch with new vistas of purpose, new sources of strength, and new dimensions of joy.

Sunday is a day for doing good. Visiting shut-ins or persons in rest homes is an admirable practice of many Christians on Sundays. Calling on prospective church members on Sunday afternoon is another possibility for service.

Bible Book

God's love, Israel's deceit

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson
Hosea 11:1-12:14

In the last two lessons we have seen Israel "tried in court" and her "crimes" listed. Today we learn of God's tender love that redeems and teaches.

I. God's tender nurture of Israel (11:1-7)

God loved Israel like a son and delivered them out of Egypt (1). Yet the more they (the prophets) called for God, the more determined the people seemed to turn to false gods (2). As tenderly as a mother holds her child and teaches it to walk, so God did this for Israel. But Israel responded as though Baal had done it for them. Still God led them on with cords of love as though they were his "pet." He led them gently, removed the yoke, stooped down and fed them (3-4).

The rejection of his love is self destruction. They will re-enter bondage in Egypt and Assyria because they refused to return to him. The choice is bondage or liberating love as found in God (5). Their cities nor their counsels will be able to save them as they turn from God, not heeding the prophets' call to exalt God (6-7).

II. God's heart revealed (11:8-12)

God's heart yearns (like Hosea's for his unfaithful wife) for Israel. All the most painfully disturbing characteristics of the love of One who truly cares for the highest and best for the beloved are seen in the heart of God. He doesn't want to give her up, or,

destroy her as Admah and Zeboirah (cities destroyed with Sodom and Gomorrah). God's heart is yearning and his compassions are stirred (8). God will punish, but will not destroy because God's love is different from man's. Thus verse nine is one of the great verses. How grateful we should be that God is not like man. God's love is redemptive and is focused upon causing them to come back once again with reverence as frightened birds (10-11). In spite of their lying, unfaithful hearts (Ephraim-Israel), the Holy One is faithful (12). Ultimately this loving, faith character of God is man's salvation.

III. Israel's character illustrated (12:1-6)

Ephraim's (Israel's) commitment to Assyria in the east will eventually be as destructive as the east wind—one of the most destructive natural forces in the Middle East. The "gifts" given to Assyria and Egypt will be like the gifts given to Hosea's wife by her false lovers (1). They are demonstrating the character of their ancestor by the same name (Jacob became Israel). He came out of the womb deceitful, but God changed him and his name when he wrestled with the angel (Gen. 32:24ff) and prevailed (2-4). God is dealing with the nation similarly—the true God is wrestling with them—and they know his identity and name. They should

do as Jacob and return to God and be his servant people (5-6).

IV. Clever dealings get the dealer (12:7-14)

By false dealings Israel has thought himself clever like a false merchant (Canaanite became the word for a cunning merchant). He even boasts of achieving prosperity by this false method without getting caught (7-8). But the Lord sees through it and will make them live in tents again as is memorialized each year at the "Feast of Tabernacles." This feast was to remind them of their captivity and wilderness wandering so it would not happen again (9). But it will!

God's prophets showed them and taught them through words, visions, and parables, but there is still false worship (10-11). Jacob (the man) fled to Aram (Syria) and worked for a wife, learned his lesson and returned (12). Israel (the nation) was in Egypt, learned a lesson and returned under the leadership of God's prophet (13). Now Ephraim-Israel is going to learn the lesson again and has to assume responsibility for it (14). Like Hosea's guilty wife, the same lesson must be learned again and again. The only remedy for this unfaithful heart is to return to the faithful husband—"The Lord, the God of Hosts; the Lord is his name" (5)!

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